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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 008975

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA CROCKER, NEA/NGA AND EUR/SE;  
LONDON FOR KHALILZAD, PEARCE AND EGOLDRICH;  
DAMASCUS FOR WALKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/13/2012

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRAQ: TURKS TELL PUK ASSISTANCE AGAINST  
ANSAR AL-ISLAM DEPENDS ON OUTCOME OF LONDON OPPOSITION  
CONFERENCE, PLUS ITF INTRIGUES

(U) Classified by Charge d'Affaires a.i. Robert Deutsch.  
Reasons: 1.5 (B and D).

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Turks Link Help vs. Ansar to Conference Outcome  
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1. (C) Operation Northern Watch POLAD met with Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Ankara rep Bahros Galali December 13. Galali said he had met earlier in the week with Turkish military officials (NFI) who told him that if, in Turkey's view, the London opposition conference had a positive result, Turkey would do all it could to help the PUK, including in the fight against Ansar al-Islam. However, if Turkey was unhappy with the outcome, Turkey would be unable to provide the PUK with assistance. The TGS officers told Galali that the PUK should block the participation at the conference of KDP-friendly Turkmen. The PUK declined to do so.

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Rumors of Turkish Troops, Ammo to Border  
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2. (C) Galali told us he had information that the Turks were moving troops, ammunition and food stocks to the Iraqi border. He had heard rumors from a number of sources that Turkey was training three thousand soldiers to serve in an "international police force" in Iraq, that the group included Iraqi Turkmen, and that the plan was for these soldiers to remain in northern Iraq indefinitely. He said he feared Turkey would "attack our area and take control of our region until there is a new government in a stable Baghdad."

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ITF Office Run By Turkish Turks-Visa Scams  
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3. (C) Galali told us he had been informed by a friend in the TGS that the Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) office in Zakho was staffed by Turks, not by Iraqi Turkmen, and that he had been advised that the Zakho ITF office would help him get PUK people into Turkey for a USD 600/person fee. Galali added that this week, in his effort to get PUK delegates to London, he had one politburo member who went to the Zahko ITF office with his Iraqi passport, and was first told the passport was invalid. He got a new passport in Dohuk and was turned away by the ITF office in Zakho again. The third time he put USD 600 in his passport and received a Turkish visa.

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ITF Insisting on 20 Seats, Endorsement of Views  
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4. Finally, Galali said he ran into ITF Chairman Sanan Aga at the Ankara airport earlier in the day. Aga told Galali that the ITF was bringing 20 delegates to the London opposition conference, although the organizers had only offered the ITF 8 spots. Aga said if the conference did not let all the ITF delegates in, the ITF would walk out of the conference. Aga also told Galali that if the ITF did not get its positions approved, it would not accept the results of the conference.  
DEUTSCH